(c) if not, the reason therefor;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed by the Department of Posts for this lapse; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when all the five postal buildings are likely to be taken in hand for construction?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Plots of land have been acquired by the Government in the following four villages of Kutch Dist. on the dates mentioned against each:

S. No.	Name of village	Date of Acquisition
1.	Naliya	15.5.92
2.	Kera	18.7.83
3.	Kukma	10.1.83
4.	Khavda	09.7.81

No site has been acquired in village Lakadia.

(b) No. Sir.

(c) Due to paucity of funds the Department could not take up the construction work.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.

(e) The construction of postal buildings depend on availability of sufficient funds and priority of the projects.

Capacity of Kurebhar Telephone Exchange in Sultanpur District of Uttar Pradesh

1191. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of Kurebhar telephone exchange in Sultanpur district of Uttar Pradesh alongwith the number of persons waiting for telephone connections;

(b) the number of persons of village Seur-Chamurkha waiting for the connection;

(c) whether the exchange is being put to optimum utilisation;

(d) if so, the number of connections sanctioned and installed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared in the above area alongwith the steps being taken to strengthen the rural communication infrastructure/network?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Installed capacity — 184
Waiting list — 12.

(b) Ten.

(c) Some spare capacity is available.

(d) The number of connections sanctioned and installed are 152.

(e) Most of the waiting list is recent except few old cases. These could not be cleared due to shortage of cables and line material.

(f) The above stated waiting list will be cleared in the early part of year 1997-98. Following steps are being taken to strengthen the rural communication insfrastructure/network:—

1. It is planned to replace the present open wire system by modern and reliable transmission media between Kurebhar and Sultanpur by March, 97.

2. To provide more village Panchayat telephones in the area.

Waiting list of Telephone in Rajasthan

1192. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons waiting for telephone connections in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan;

(b) the details of the total installed capacity and Telephone Exchange availability in each district;

(c) by when Government propose to issue connections to all the wait listed persons, district-wise, in Rajasthan; and

(d) whether Cellular Telephone Services are also likely to be provided in any district of Rajasthan during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Number of persons waiting for telephone connections as on 31.01.97 in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Jaisalmer are as given below:

Jaipur	District	49852
Jodhpur	"	15549
Bikaner	"	6768
Jaisalmer	"	483

(b) The details of the total installed capacity and telephone Exchange availability in each of the above mentioned districts are as given below:

Name of Dist.	No. of Exch.	capacity (Lines)
Jaipur	115	174220
Jodhpur	64	54896
Bikaner	44	23840
Jaisalmer	13	3856

(c) All the wait listed persons (district-wise) in Rajasthan will be provided with telephone connections as per the details given in Statement (*See* below).

(d) Two private cellular operators have been granted licence by telecom directorate. They are likely to start providing Cellular services in some District Headquarters in 1997-98.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of district	Waiting List As on 31.01.97	Date by which all connection are likely to be given.
1.	Ajmer	11891	March 98
2.	Alwar	7687	Nov. 97
3.	Banswara	2607	Oct. 97
4.	Baran	986	Dec. 97
5.	Barmer	2549	Oct. 97
6.	Bharatpur	3006	Feb. 98
7.	Bhilwara	7789	March 98
8.	Bikaner	6768	Dec. 98
9.	Bundi	918	Oct. 97
10.	Chittorgarh	2685	Dec. 97
11.	Churu	2703	Jan. 98
12.	Dausa	2551	Jan. 98
13.	Dholpur	918	Jan. 98
14.	Dungarpur	1972	March 98
15.	Hanumangarh	3586	March 98
16.	Jaipur	49852	March 98
17.	Jaisalmer	483	Sept. 97
18.	Jalore	2626	Dec. 97
19.	Jhalawar	1068	Jan. 98
20.	Jhunjhunu	14712	Feb. 98
21.	Jodhpur	15549	March 98
22.	Kota	10844	March 98
23.	Nagaur	6318	March 98
24.	Pali	8158	Dec. 97
25.	Rajsamand	3375	March 98

Sl. No.	Name of district	Waiting List As on 31.01.97	Date by which all connection are likely to be given.
26.	Sawaimadhopur	2692	Jan. 98
27.	Sikar	9126	March 98
28.	Sirohi	3310	Dec. 97
29.	Sriganganagar	8167	March 98
30.	Tonk	1524	Oct. 97
31.	Udaipur	6790	Oct. 97
	Total:	193210	

Note:—The above activity is likely to be completed subject to availbility of equipment & stores.

New Policy for Postal Services

1193. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new policy for postal services in the rural areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Postal services are being provided by opening of Post Offices, under Annual Plan Schemes, subject to norm based justification and availability of resources, A scheme of licenced Stamp Vendors is also available for sale of postal stamps and stationery. Apart from these a scheme called the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna was introduced in 1995-96 to provide basic postal facilities in Gram Panchayat villages.

(b) The details of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojna are given in Statement (*See* below).

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) aboye.

Statement

Panchaya: Sanchar Seva Yojana

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME:

The objective of the Scheme is to provide basic postal and telecommunications facilities to the Gram Panchayat which are still without post offices. In this scheme, the panchayat will be the nodal point for retailing some of the basic services like sale of stamps and postal stationery, collection and delivery of letters, booking of registered articles, etc.

FUNCTIONS:

The functions given below shall be performed by the Panchayat Kendra unless other wise specified by the Department:—

(a) Booking of registered letters except VP and Insured articles;

(b) Sale of postage stamps and postal stationery;

(c) Grant of certificate of posting;

(d) Operation of Mahila Samridhi Yojana Scheme, where fasible;

(e) Collection and delivery of mail including clearance of letter boxes, where feasible;

(f) Propogation of small Savings Scheme and Rural Postal Life Insurance; and

(g) Other functions of Branch Post Office as and when the Department is satisfied that Kendras are able to discharge them.

In addition the following optional functions may be given to the Sanchar Kendra In-charge by Supdtt./Sr. Supdtt. Post offices of concerned division.